

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ An installation for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship ~~to carry hydrocarbons in particular~~, the ~~said~~ installation comprising

an assembly unit operable for assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain lengths and for assembling the ~~said~~ lengths ~~in such a way as~~ to form the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe; ~~which is intended to be wound onto~~

~~a storage reel situated on the ~~said~~ laying ship onto which the tubular pipe is intended to be wound and the pipe having undergone plastic deformation[[],]];~~ characterized in that this installation comprises:

[[-]] a first float separate from the laying ship;

~~an intermediate winding and deforming apparatus means (11) arranged on the first floating means (10) distinct from the said laying ship float and operable~~ to plastically deform the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe (28) and wind [[it]] the pipe onto the ~~said~~ intermediate winding means (11) apparatus after the ~~said~~ rigid tubular pipe (28) has been formed; and

[[-]] connecting means (18) designed to connect a connector connecting together the said first floating means (10) float and the said assembly unit.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Installation~~ The installation according to Claim 1, wherein characterized in that the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus means (11) comprise an intermediate storage reel the having a first drum diameter of which is greater than the a second drum diameter of the ~~said~~ storage reel (40) of the laying boat (42) ship.

3. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to Claim 2, characterized in that wherein the first drum diameter of the said intermediate storage reel (11) is greater than the a maximum diameter of a last portion of rigid pipe that is likely to be wound onto the said storage reel of the laying boat (42) ship.

4. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, further comprising a second float on which the said assembly entity unit is mounted on second floating means (12).

5. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to Claim 4, wherein characterized in that the said second floating means (12) have float has a length of between 40 and 120 metres meters along a direction between the storage reel and the intermediate winding and deforming apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that claim 5, wherein the said connecting means (18) are mounted connector includes an articulated mount articulated on the said first floating means (10) float and on the said assembly entity (12) unit, the articulated mount being operable to allow relative movement of the said first floating means (10) float and of the said assembly entity (12) unit at least in a vertical direction.

7. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to Claim 6, characterized in that wherein the said connecting means (18) comprise catching means connector comprises a catch that can be locked so as to obtain a removable connecting means connector.

8. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the said connecting means (18) are built with connector has a lattice configuration.

9. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the said intermediate winding means (11) apparatus comprise

an intermediate storage reel mounted vertically on the said first floating means (10) float and which is designed being drivable to be driven in rotation rotate about a horizontally-arranged axis so as to wound wind the said rigid tubular pipe (28).

10. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the said first floating means (10) comprise comprises a float ballast weight tanks (38) tank fillable to weigh down the said first floating means (10) float according to a the length of the rigid tubular pipe wound onto the said intermediate winding apparatus means (11).

11. (Currently Amended) Installation The installation according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the said first floating means (10) consist of float comprises a barge or of a vessel with a stable hull.

12. (Currently Amended) Method A method for manufacturing a wound rigid tubular pipe, the said rigid tubular pipe being intended to be installed subsea by a laying ship to carry hydrocarbons in particular, the said method comprising: a step of

assembling a plurality of rigid tubes end to end to obtain lengths and of assembling the said lengths in such a way as to form the said rigid tubular pipe which is intended to be wound onto a

storage reel situated on the said laying ship, the pipe having undergone plastic deformation, characterized in that this method comprises the following steps:

[[-]] the said rigid tubular pipe is plastically deformed deforming and then winding the rigid tubular pipe wound onto a first floating means (10) float separate from the said laying ship after the said rigid tubular pipe (28) has been formed assembled; and

[[-]] transferring the wound rigid tubular pipe is transferred from the said floating means first float to the said laying ship by rewinding it the pipe onto the said storage reel.